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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/598,556	09/05/2006	Thomas Zeng	129250-002283	7224
33498 7590 08/31/2010 CAPITOL PATENT & TRADEMARK LAW FIRM, PLLC P.O. BOX 1995 VIENNA, VA 22183				
EXAMINER DUBASKY, GIGI L				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/598,556

Applicant(s)

ZENG ET AL.

Examiner

GIGI L. DUBASKY

Art Unit

2421

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-9, 12-17 and 20-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-9, 12-17 and 20-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/04/2010 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Claims 1, 4-9, 12-17 and 20-24 are pending.

2. Applicant's arguments in the Remarks filed on 05/04/2010 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Although a new ground of rejection has been used to address additional limitation that has been added to claims 1 and 17, a response is considered necessary for applicant's arguments since the Deshpande reference will continue to be used to meet several claimed limitations.

In response to the Applicants' argument in ¶ 3 of page 8, that "Deshpande does not describe... npt value that indicates an amount of video (i.e., segment) that is to be played", examiner respectfully traverses.

Deshpande discloses the symbols St_i and Et_i represent the beginning and ending timecode values on the clip timeline for video segment S_i (with $i=1, \dots, N$) and symbol Bi for value of the amount of data to be prefetched (¶ [0104] lines 4-13). Deshpande also discloses the client sends an RTSP PLAY request to the server with the Normal Play Time ($npt=St_1-Et_1$ for the video segment S_1 and, in parallel, sends another request with $npt=St_2-Et_2$ for the video segment S_2 , then video data corresponding to segment S_1 and S_2 is streaming to the client and buffered (¶ [0105]). After finishing playback video segment S_1 , the client sends an RTSP PLAY request with $npt=(St_2+Ts_2)-Et_2$ for the video segment S_2 in parallel with another RTSP PLAY request with $npt=St_3-Et_3$ for the video segment S_3 , then the playback for video segment S_2 is start immediately while video data corresponding to segment S_3 is streaming to the client and buffered (¶ [0106]), and this process is repeated for each subsequent video segment in the requested playlist.

Therefore, Deshpande's npt value is not as an indication of an amount of video to be playback as the Applicants assert, but indicates a time at which streaming of a particular video segment or a subsequent video segment in the playlist will commence.

It is suggested that the Applicants incorporate features of defining new range type (called "playlist_play_time") for range header in syntax structure of RTSP PLAY message and of RTSP SET_PARAMETER as described in the instant invention's

specification (pages 14-15) and in corresponding Figure 8 with more specific language in claim in order to distinguish it from the cited prior arts.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 4-9, 12-17 and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deshpande (US 2005/0071881) of the record in view of Schulzrinne (RFC 2326 – Real Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP), April 1998) of the record, Chaudhuri et al (US 2003/0018615) and further in view of Brenchner et al (US 6741996).

Regarding claim 1, Deshpande discloses a method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node, comprising:
receiving a Real-Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)-compliant PLAYLIST_PLAY navigation message (¶ [0055] lines 1-12 for the client sends one or more requests/messages to the server to retrieve a requested playlist and its video segments (as “media clips”) during playback of the playlist; and ¶ [0105]-[0106] for sending a RTSP PLAY request with the Normal Play Time (npt)=St1-Et1 for video segment S1 and, in parallel, sending another request with npt=St2-Et2 for video segment S2, then

video data corresponding to segments S1 and S2 are streaming to the client and buffered; after finishing playback video segment S1, the client sends an RTSP PLAY request with $npt=(St2+Ts2)-Et2$ for video segment S2 in parallel with another RTSP PLAY request with $npt=St3-Et3$ for video segment S3, then the playback for video segment S2 is start immediately while video data corresponding to segment S3 is streaming to the client and buffered. This process is repeated for each subsequent video segment in the requested playlist. It means that Deshpande's RTSP PLAY request with the npt value indicating a time at which streaming of a particular video segment or a subsequent video segment in the playlist will commence is a navigation message) at said network node (¶ [0046] lines 1-4 for transmitting data from client to server and vice versa through one or more intermediate nodes on the network), that includes at least one multidimensional pointer (see Figure 1 for playlist(s) 114 includes a list of video segments 116 (as "media clips") and corresponding display and prefetch instructions (Figures 8 and 10). By reading the claim in reasonable broadest sense, Deshpand's each playlist 114 considers as one "multidimensional pointer" which points to a plurality of different media clips), said multidimensional pointer associated with a media clip in a depository of digital multimedia content (¶ [0004] lines 1-5 for a "playlist" including information about a number of individual media files; and ¶ [0049] lines 1-9 for each playlist has segments from different videos stored on different servers), said navigation message further including a relative time offset within said media clip (see Figures 8 and 10 for including in the playlist a list of display and prefetch instructions

including the starting and ending frames (as "relative time offset") of each video segment 116 (Figure 7) in form of a time code (§ [0075] lines 8-9)); and transferring digital multimedia content to a digital multimedia device by said network node from a particular content source identified by said multidimensional pointer (see Figure 1; § [0046] lines 1-4 and step 1310 in Figure 13), said transferring commencing at a time indicated (§ [0102], § [0104] lines 4-8 and § [0105]-[0108]).

Deshpande does not explicitly disclose the message including a timing parameter operable to indicate when said message is to be activated by said network node, does not disclose the (n+1)-tuple and does not disclose the depository of data is organized into a nested hierarchical arrangement having a plurality of levels.

Schulzrinne (in the memo of RFC2326 - Real Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)) discloses the RTSP PLAY message from the client to the server includes fields such as source identifier or playlist identifier (URL), Cseq, Section and Range (wherein the Range header defines npt, smpte or clock values), and also includes a time parameter specifying a time in UTC at which the playback should start (see section 10.5) or a time at which the operation is to be made effective (see section 12.29).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Deshpande's RTSP message to include a time parameter as taught by Schulzrinne, so to help the system in synchronization of streams obtained from different sources and to allow the client to get more control in multimedia transmission.

The combined system of Deshpande and Schulzrinne fails to disclose the (n+1) tuple and the depository of multimedia content is organized into a nested hierarchical arrangement having a plurality of levels.

Chaudhuri discloses an (n+1)-tuple structure for data stored in the database system ([0002] and [0006]-[0011]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the combined system of Deshpande and Schulzrinne with the teaching of Chaudhuri about implementing tuple structure, so to take advantage of Tuple in data structure such as tuple is faster than list and has a write protection.

The combined system of Deshpande, Schulzrinne and Chaudhuri does not explicitly disclose the depository of multimedia content is organized into a nested hierarchical arrangement having a plurality of levels.

Brenchner discloses a system of managing media clips which are stored and organized into a hierarchical collection in computer storage (Col 1 lines 5-10 and Col 2 lines 5-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the combined system of Deshpande, Schulzrinne and Chaudhuri with the teaching of Brenchner about media clips file stored in a hierarchical storage, so to provide an quick and easy way in managing and searching an organized data.

Regarding claim 4, Deshpande in view of Schulzrinne, Chaudhuri and further in view of Brenchner discloses the method as discussed in the rejection of claim 1. The combined system further discloses a first level of said depository of digital multimedia content comprises at least one server-side playlist identified by a uniform resource locator (taught by Deshpande; ¶ [0003] lines 4-8, ¶ [0027] lines 5-6 and ¶ [0049] lines 10-16; and also taught by Schulzrinne; see URLs defined in section 10.5).

Regarding claim 5, Deshpande in view of Schulzrinne, Chaudhuri and further in view of Brenchner discloses the method as discussed in the rejection of claim 4. The combined system further discloses at least one server-side playlist includes one or more media clips, each being identified by a corresponding media source identifier and a relative time offset within said media clip (taught by Deshpande; ¶ [0004], ¶ [0075], ¶ [0049] and ¶ [0112] and see Figures 1, 7-8 and 10).

Regarding claim 6, Deshpande in view of Schulzrinne, Chaudhuri and further in view of Brenchner discloses the method as discussed in the rejection of claim 1. The combined system further discloses the digital multimedia device accesses said network node over at least one of a wire line network, a wireless network, or a cable network (taught by Deshpande; ¶ [0046] lines 4-16 and ¶ [0116]).

Regarding claim 7, Deshpande in view of Schulzrinne, Chaudhuri and further in view of Brenchner discloses the method as discussed in the rejection of claim 1. The

combined system further discloses digital multimedia device comprises at least one of: digital music players, digital video players, computers or handheld communication devices enabled to accept streaming media (taught by Deshpande; see Figure 14; ¶ [0005] lines 4-9 and ¶ [0114]-[0117]).

Regarding claim 8, Deshpande in view of Schulzrinne, Chaudhuri and further in view of Brenchner discloses the method as discussed in the rejection of claim 1. The combined system further discloses the timing parameter (taught by Schulzrinne; section 10.5 and 12.9) is operable to assume a value selected from the group consisting of: NOW, END OF CLIP, END OF PLAYLIST (The claim language "group consisting of" does not require all limitations are met. It is taught by Deshpande; ¶ [0106]-[0108] for playing back to back video segments in the playlist with the npt value indicated when the next segment is played which means that the next segment is played right at the end frame/clip of the previous segment. This meets the limitation of "END OF CLIP". Moreover, Schulzrinne also discloses the normal play time can be set to NOW value for live feed request (section 3.6). Therefore, the request to play in real-time from the clients with the npt set to NOW is interpreted as when the request is satisfied corresponding to the NOW value of the npt time).

Regarding claim 9, all limitations of claimed system in claim 9 are analyzed corresponding to the functionalities of claim 1. So claim 9 is rejected on the same ground as claim 1.

Regarding claim 12, all limitations of claimed system in claim 12 are analyzed corresponding to the functionalities of claim 4. So claim 12 is rejected on the same ground as claim 4.

Regarding claim 13, all limitations of claimed system in claim 13 are analyzed corresponding to the functionalities of claim 5. So claim 13 is rejected on the same ground as claim 5.

Regarding claim 14, all limitations of claimed system in claim 14 are analyzed corresponding to the functionalities of claim 6. So claim 14 is rejected on the same ground as claim 6.

Regarding claim 15, all limitations of claimed system in claim 15 are analyzed corresponding to the functionalities of claim 7. So claim 15 is rejected on the same ground as claim 7.

Regarding claim 16, all limitations of claimed system in claim 16 are analyzed corresponding to the functionalities of claim 8. So claim 16 is rejected on the same ground as claim 8.

Regarding claim 17, Deshpande in view of Schulzrinne, Chaudhuri and further in view of Brenchner discloses a digital multimedia device which all functionalities are analyzed and rejected corresponding to the discussion in the rejection of claim 1. The combined system further discloses a logic for receiving a Real-Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)-compliant PLAYLIST PLAY message (taught by Deshpande; ¶ [0105]-[0108] and ¶ [0113]-[0114]) and a player engine (taught by Deshpande; element 106 in Figure 1 or element 220 in Figure 2 or elements 1414 and 1416 in Figure 14).

Regarding claim 20, Deshpande in view of Schulzrinne, Chaudhuri and further in view of Brenchner discloses the device as discussed in the rejection of claim 17. The combined system further discloses a first level of said plurality of media identifier dimensions comprises a uniform resource locator identifying a server-side playlist (taught by Deshpande; ¶ [0003] lines 4-8, ¶ [0027] lines 5-6 and ¶ [0049] lines 10-16; also taught by Schulzrinne in the section 10.5).

Regarding claim 21, Deshpande in view of Schulzrinne, Chaudhuri and further in view of Brenchner discloses the device as discussed in the rejection of claim 20. The combined system further discloses a second level of said plurality of media identifier dimensions comprises at least one of a media source identifier for identifying a particular media clip (taught by Brenchner; see Figure 10) within said server-side playlist (taught by Deshpande; ¶ [0049] for playlist is stored at the server).

Regarding claim 22, Deshpande in view of Schulzrinne, Chaudhuri and further in view of Brenchner discloses the device as discussed in the rejection of claim 21. The combined system further discloses the multidimensional pointer (Deshpande's playlist(s) 114 or multidimensional data of Jordan in Figures 1-2) includes a relative time offset (starting and ending frames in Figure 7 of Deshpande) within said particular media clip (Deshpande's video segments 116).

Regarding claim 23, Deshpande discloses the device as discussed in the rejection of claim 17. The limitations of claim 23 are analyzed and rejected corresponding to the discussion in the rejection of claim 6.

Regarding claim 24, Deshpande discloses the device as discussed in the rejection of claim 17. The limitations of claim 24 are analyzed and rejected corresponding to the discussion in the rejection of claim 8.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GIGI L. DUBASKY whose telephone number is (571)270-5686. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John W. Miller/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2421

GD